

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16700

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, SHUM, UR, US (MCCLELLAN, IRINA)
SUBJECT: IRINA MCCLELLAN

1. POL COUNSELOR AND ACTING CONSULAR COUNSELOR
DELIVERED PROTEST NOTE ON MRS. MCCLELLAN'S
DETENTION (SEPTTEL) TO MFA USA DIVISION DEPUTY
CHIEF V. ISAKOK, ON JULY 17. TEXT OF NOTE
FOLLOWS:

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WISHES TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIAL-
IST REPUBLICS THE FOLLOWING INCIDENT INVOLVING
INTERFERENCE BY SOVIET MILITIAMEN WITH THE
OPERATION OF THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION.

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 17, MRS. IRINA MCCLELLAN,
A SOVIET CITIZEN MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
PRESENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES, CAME TO THE
EMBASSY TO MEET WITH A CONSULAR OFFICER OF THE
EMBASSY ON CONSULAR BUSINESS. AT 11:00 A.M.,
AS SHE SOUGHT TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE EMBASSY IN
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THE COMPANY OF VICE CONSUL ROBERT W. PRINGLE,
SHE WAS DETAINED BY OFFICERS OF THE SOVIET
POLICE DETACHMENT STATIONED IN FRONT OF THE
EMBASSY. DESPITE THE PROTESTATIONS OF VICE
CONSUL PRINGLE, MRS. MCCLELLAN WAS DETAINED BY
THE SOVIET OFFICERS AND TAKEN TO THE SMALL
BUILDING ON THE SIDE OF THE EMBASSY.

THE EMBASSY, NOTING ITS LONG AND LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE EMIGRATION CASE OF MRS. MCCLELLAN, AND THE FACT THAT MRS. MCCLELLAN HAD COME TO THE EMBASSY ON LEGITIMATE CONSULAR BUSINESS STRONGLY AND EMPHATICALLY PROTESTS THE BEHAVIOR OF THE OFFICERS OF THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT SUCH OUTRAGEOUS AND UNCALLED ACTIONS ARE NOT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN-SOVIET CONSULAR CONVENTION AND THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT THE MINISTRY TAKES WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE MILITIAMEN POSTED IN FRONT OF THE EMBASSY DO NOT IMPEDE THE WORK OF THE EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION. EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MOSCOW, JULY 17, 1978. END TEXT.

2. IN ORAL PRESENTATION FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF NOTE, POL COUNSELOR NOTED THAT MRS. MCCLELLAN HAD GONE TO THE EMBASSY TO EXECUTE A LEGAL DOCUMENT FOR HER HUSBAND; THAT THE CONSULAR CONVENTION CLEARLY GIVES THE EMBASSY THE RIGHT TO NOTARIZE DOCUMENTS; AND THAT MRS. MCCLELLAN

PLANS TO RETURN TO THE EMBASSY TO NOTARIZE
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THE DOCUMENT. POL COUNSELOR STATED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE MFA WOULD NOTIFY THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES THAT SHE WILL BE RETURNING TO THE EMBASSY HERE AND THAT SHE BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CONSULAR SECTION.

4. ISAKOV REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT AND THEREFORE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT THE PROTEST. HE DID PROMISE, HOWEVER, TO LOOK INTO IT. IN CONCLUSION, ISAKOV MADE STANDARD SOVIET PITCH THAT MILITIA GUARDS WERE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY TO PROTECT THE EMBASSY PERSONNEL. MATLOCK

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